



2026 Youth Engaged in Philanthropy – Youth Focused Grants

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Mission Statement:

As a part of our community's youth, we strive to connect those who care about youth with the monetary means necessary to pursue their visions.

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy (YEP) includes 15 high school students from McLean, DeWitt, Livingston and Logan counties. YEP, through the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF), has \$10,000 in grant funds to distribute in 2026. The YEP cohort is charged with the task of creating a grant application, notifying nonprofit organizations within the service area of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation about the availability of the grant opportunity, and allocating funds to youth focused initiatives.

DESCRIPTION

YEP members are committed to reaching out to organizations that benefit youth in the community, both directly and indirectly. YEP encourages youth to have an active role in completing the application. Those organizations that include youth in the application process will be given priority in grant decisions.

Applications may be submitted September 1 through 5:00 p.m. (Central) September 30, 2025. The online grant system automatically closes all applications at the 5 p.m. deadline, whether they are in progress or not.

For the 2026 grant cycle, Youth Engaged in Philanthropy is interested in hearing about the needs of children from the four counties in which we operate. It is highly encouraged for the youth involved in these organizations to aid in the completion of the YEP application.

Grant funding is for the period of **February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027**; programs seeking funding must occur during that timeframe.

Applications will only be accepted through the online portal.

If you apply for a YEP grant in the fall, you may not apply for the identical program to the Women to Women Giving Circle or Environment & Nature Grants in the same grant cycle. You may, however, apply for a grant in the spring cycle (General, Mirza/Arts & Culture, Shulman) if the applications are for distinctly different programs.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must represent a 501(c)(3) organization; an organization with a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) organization; a unit of municipal, county, state, or federal government (including public schools); a nonprofit institute of higher learning; or a tax-exempt religious organization or place of worship (programs may not proselytize for a particular religion or cause).
- Project must be youth-focused or have a significant impact on youth
- Must impact at least one of the four counties in the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation service area (McLean, DeWitt, Livingston or Logan)
- Applicants are required to use a budget document developed by the IPCF Grants Committees; form can be downloaded through the online grant application; Word and Excel files are available
- If awarded funding, there must be a follow-up report completed regarding the success of the project within 60 days of the project's completion
- If your organization receives funding from YEP and wishes to change the use of funding at any time, you must first submit a written request to YEP
- If your organization receives funding from YEP and does not use all of the funds provided by YEP, you must notify YEP. The group will then notify you on how to proceed with the funds
- Completed grant applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. (Central) September 30, 2025.**

To begin the online grant application, go to <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ipcf>. After logging in or creating a new account, you will be directed to an Apply page showing all open grant applications for the fall grant cycle. Click on the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy application to begin.

Log in to the online grant portal to start an application, finish a previously started and saved application, check the status of a previous application or complete follow-up reports assigned for successful grantees.

Answers are required for all questions with asterisks before the application may be submitted. The application will not submit if you are missing information in a required field. You will receive a confirmation email once you have successfully submitted your application.

Most applicants find it easiest to write their application in a Word document and then copy and paste into the appropriate areas of the application. The online application system will automatically save throughout the process, but you can always save your work as you go along. Please save a copy of your application before submitting it.

If you have questions about the application or would like mentorship in completing it, please contact Michele Evans, Vice President (Programs) at IPCF, as soon as possible at 309-662-4477 or mevans@ilpcf.org.